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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022	L\$152.2158 /US\$1.00	L\$153.9606 /US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.  
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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# Continental News

## Tunisian Opposition Abroad Lobbies Against Upcoming Referendum

Tunisian opposition lawmakers are in Paris to lobby against a controversial constitutional referendum taking place later this month, which they argue risks

today, it's strange to see onetime political foes here in Paris, united against one man — Tunisian President Kais Saied — and his new draft constitution. “The international community hasn't to recognize the Saied process in Tunisia because it's not a legitimate

suspended parliament and seized wide-ranging powers in July 2021.

Now, President Saied wants Tunisians to vote on a new draft constitution in a July 25 referendum. The United States and European Union have called for an inclusive democratic process—one, critics say, that guided Tunisia's last 2014 constitution, but not this one. Even the legal expert behind the new charter has disavowed it, saying it's not what his committee originally drafted.

“He didn't respect the (2014) constitution (but) he has been elected by the constitution. I think everybody in the world, and Tunisians, must not recognize the legitimacy Saied is (trying to get) for himself,” said Makhloufi.

In April, Makhloufi's Tayyar and four other opposition parties formed a new opposition alliance, the National Salvation Front. It's calling on Tunisians to boycott the referendum.

The opposition alliance includes the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party, that retains fading but still sizable popular

support. Ridha Driss is advisor to Ennahdha's leader Rached Ghannouchi. He warns President Saied is bent on one-man rule and will ensure the constitution is passed, one way or another.

Also, part of the alliance is Ennahdha's once-staunch enemy, the Qalb Tounes, or “Heart of Tunisia” party. Lawmaker Oussama Khelifi says his party is calling for national unity, as the only way to save Tunisia.

The tiny, North African country has faced a rocky ride toward democracy since its 2011 revolution that kicked off the wider Arab Spring revolt. Tunisia's

economy has stumbled, and politics have been marred by paralysis and corruption.

Many Tunisians hailed Saied's unlikely presidential win in 2019. They cheered when the former law professor seized wide-ranging powers last year. But today, public support is fading and disenchantment growing as the country battles a mounting economic crisis. Experts predict low voter turnout for this upcoming referendum.

For his part, President Saied denies authoritarian goals and says he's committed to political freedoms. He sees this new draft constitution, which among other things, strengthens presidential powers and waters down legislative ones, as correcting a dysfunctional system. VOA



People carry banners and flags during a rally in support of Tunisian President Kais Saied in Tunis

plunging the fragile Arab Spring democracy back into dictatorship.

For years, Tunisia's bickering parties delivered gridlock in parliament and mounting public anger. So

process...,” said Makhloufi.

Sofiane Makhloufi is a member of parliament from Tunisia's Tayyar party — which once supported Kais Saied. That was before Tunisia's president dismissed his government,

## Sub-Saharan Africa Facing Severe Food Shortage

The International Committee of the Red Cross warns hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa are going hungry due to conflict, climate shocks, and rising food prices triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The ICRC warns Africa's food crisis is set to worsen. It says conflict and armed violence, failing harvests due to years of drought, and increases in food and other commodity prices are driving more people into extreme poverty and hunger.

A recent U.N. assessment estimates 346 million people on the continent face severe food insecurity, meaning one-quarter of the population does not have enough to eat.

The ICRC regional director for Africa, Patrick Youssef, says the situation is urgent. He warns many lives will be lost without a concerted effort by different actors to meet the challenges ahead. He says aid agencies, international financial institutions, and governments must

collaborate to prevent the humanitarian crisis from becoming irreversible.

“As we look at 2023, we know that this will repeat itself. These climate shocks will repeat themselves; food insecurity will remain as acute as it is,” said Youssef. “It will not end with the calendar year. So, we all will better collectively be prepared for a long haul, for a situation, for a crisis that will certainly increase in size and volume.”

The ICRC reports the war in Ukraine has caused a sharp increase in fuel and fertilizer prices. That, it says, has added significant pressure on farmers, many of whom are weathering the combined impact of conflict and climate shocks.

Youssef says the Horn of Africa is most seriously affected. He notes, however, that other parts of Africa, from Mauritania to the Sahel to Lake Chad and, to a lesser extent, the Central African Republic, are suffering from the effects of the Ukraine



A woman gathers maize she harvested on the outskirts of Harare, Zimbabwe

## Ivory Coast Demands Release of Soldiers in Mali



Ivorian soldiers of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali take part in celebrations marking the 59th anniversary

Ivory Coast released a written statement demanding the immediate release of 49 soldiers arrested at Bamako's airport Sunday, claiming they were “unjustly arrested.” Mali's military government has called the soldiers “mercenaries.”

The Ivorian statement also denied allegations by Mali's military government that the soldiers were armed and arrived in Mali without authorization, and said both Mali's minister of foreign affairs and the Malian army's chief of staff received copies of the soldiers' mission order.

Both the U.N. mission in Mali and the Ivorian government's statement

have said that the soldiers were sent to Mali as support for a U.N. Mission contingent.

The U.N. mission in Mali, MINUSMA, recently renewed its mandate, with Mali's U.N. representative voicing the government's refusal to allow the U.N. to carry out human rights investigations during a June 29 Security Council meeting.

The U.N. has carried out a number of human rights investigations in Mali in recent years, including events that implicate the French army as well as Islamist militants. The U.N. sought access to the town of Moura in Mali, which was the sight of what many witnesses said was a massacre by the Malian army working with Russian mercenaries. VOA

crisis.

“Countries are equally, at least those who are, as you mentioned, so dependent on grains and wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Somalia is the worst—90 percent,” said Youssef. “But Nigeria has also a large dependency on that. Sudan and South Sudan as well. And, indeed the

situation is extremely difficult for people that are inaccessible for humanitarian organizations, such as Somalia.”

Youssef says lack of access to people in areas affected by conflict and armed violence, such as Somalia and Burkina Faso raise the challenges to a different level. VOA



# EDITORIAL

## What lies ahead of a divided opposition

**Members of the** opposition in Liberia should brace themselves for a rude awakening come 2023, as President George Weah and his ruling Coalition for democratic Change have already begun campaigning for votes 16 months to the polls.

**Unless the opposition** Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party, All Liberian Party and other splinter parties get their acts together now, they risk being beaten nose down again like in 2017.

**The recent senatorial** by-election in Lofa County should send a signal to the opposition that they need to wake up from their slumber and face the grim reality awaiting them at the poll next year, in their quest to make Mr. Weah a one-term President.

**While the opposition** LP is in and out of court, tearing itself apart, the UP seems to be on the verge of going to court over its demand for a recount in Lofa, and the ANC/CPP is still breathing fresh air from the recent legal battle with the UP/ALP combined.

**It is obvious** that the ruling party as always presides over state funds and would do everything and anything to win election, exploiting the weakness of a divided opposition as the present case indicates.

**The quest for** state power is a serious business that requires prepared and very focus politicians, rather than crying baby.

**Even news that** the UP has placed price tags on positions in the party to, as high as US\$7,500, for standard bearer and \$5,000 for secretary general position, respectively ahead of convention in Bong County is not only sickening, but highly disappointing.

**We think this** an attempt by the current leadership under former President Joseph Nyumah Boakai to deny potential persons from vying in the party that held state power for 12 unbroken years. Besides, it shows that the UP is not financially prepared to face President Weah.

**The fundamental reality** is that no single political party can win elections now in the country without presenting a formidable common front. Both the ruling CDC and the opposition bloc know this very well.

**Liberian voters are** yearning for an alternative leadership in the wake of grinding economic hardship, corruption, mysterious deaths and arbitrary killings by state security forces, but they seem not to be getting any hope from the opposition.

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# COMMENTARY

By Josep Borrell

## Getting Serious About European Defense

**B**RUSSELS - Russia's war in Ukraine has forced the European Union to address longstanding strategic challenges. The most immediate task is to end Europe's dependence on Russian energy imports, and this process is now underway, with a gradual oil embargo that will reach 90% by the end of the year.

More broadly, Europe must also develop an effective security and defense policy, as well as the capabilities required to implement it. While this ambition itself is not new, there is a fresh impetus for it. Russia's war makes clear that we need a step change toward greater pooling of defense investments. That was the main conclusion from the European Council's discussion about defense this week.

No two political problems are identical. Sometimes, a challenge seems so new and unprecedented that it cannot be addressed until there has been a proper assessment of a changed landscape. And sometimes, the solutions are known but the resources for them are lacking. The European security and defense debate falls into a third category: the diagnosis and prescriptions are clear, but there has been a deficit of political will.

We have known for years - even decades - that European governments have been spending too little on defense, and in too fragmented a manner. The result is that we lack the military capabilities to guarantee our own security or serve as a capable partner for NATO. We need to spend more, and we need to do more of that spending together.

Over the years, many European politicians, institutions, defense ministries, think tanks, and others have issued reports and proposals calling for more and better defense spending. These exhortations have reflected a clear and firm consensus among experts on the issue. Moreover, in 2004, the EU created the European Defense Agency (EDA) to support member states with joint research, development, and procurement projects.

But many countries cut their defense spending following the 2008 financial crisis, reducing the shares of their budgets devoted to collaborative security investments. Since then, governments have too often paid lip service to joint spending while continuing to put national procurement first (often for political reasons, such as to support domestic industries and employment).

The net result has been dramatic. Between 2009 and 2018, member states' cuts amounted to an aggregate defense underspending of around €160 billion (\$171 billion). Worse, many others around the world have raced ahead. In the last 20

years, EU combined defense spending increased by only 20%, compared to 66% for the United States, almost 300% for Russia, and 600% for China. Even more alarmingly, Europe reached a new low in 2021, when only 8% of equipment spending went toward collaborative investments - a far cry from the 35% that EU member states themselves have set as a target.

This underspending and lack of collaboration is costing EU countries (and thus taxpayers) tens of billions of euros per year, because of redundant spending and inefficiencies. But it doesn't have to be this way. It is within our own power to change course, and we already know the way. Through the Strategic Compass, EU institutions and all 27 member states have drawn up a roadmap. We have tools and frameworks in place - starting with the Permanent Structured Cooperation and the European Defense Fund - to help member states pursue research, development, and investments in a more coordinated manner.

But other pieces still need to fall in place. We must provide financial incentives for joint procurement and move toward more strategic programming. We also need to strengthen the EU's defense industrial and technological base by supporting research and development and harnessing the potential of disruptive new technologies. As I told European leaders this week when they endorsed this approach, both the European Commission and the EDA can help with coordination.

Yes, it is a cliché in European politics to say that we lack only the political will to use the tools at our disposal. But clichés are generally true. We Europeans tend to make tough decisions only when we have tried everything else and are facing an acute crisis.

Those conditions have clearly been met. We are watching Russia wage a brutal war of aggression against Ukraine - one that has underscored Europe's own vulnerabilities, revealing longstanding capability deficits and new needs (such as to refill our depleted stocks). Moreover, this crisis comes on top of many other threats, both in our own neighborhood and beyond. European interests are being challenged in all strategic domains, including cyber, maritime, and space.

We need to develop the means to protect ourselves in a dangerous world. That will require not just more defense spending but better defense spending. To ensure our collective security, we must invest more together.

**Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.**

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# The Inflationary Consequences of Deglobalization

NEW YORK/HONG KONG - The return of high inflation in many developed economies seems to have surprised central banks and has quickly become people’s leading economic worry. While monetary tightening is necessary, the role of structural factors warrants attention, too. Specifically, besides pandemic-related supply-chain disruptions and the energy and food-price shocks amplified by the Ukraine war, policymakers must also acknowledge more explicitly the inflationary consequences of deglobalization.

During the two decades before the 2008 global financial crisis, globalization seemed unstoppable. The volume of global trade increased more than twice as fast as world GDP, as liberalization of trade and investment in developing Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe contributed to a boom in cross-border reallocation of production flows of final and intermediate goods.

The hyper-globalization of this period, and notably the integration of China into world trade and investment portfolios, helped to reduce inflationary pressures in developed economies. For example, when overall annual US inflation was hovering around 2%, goods inflation was often about -1%. While US import prices of manufactured goods from industrialized countries rose by 33% between 1990 and 2008, prices of goods from developing countries increased by a mere 3.4%. Furthermore, the smallest price increases were for products imported largely from China.

The disinflationary pressure from China resulted from the country’s sustained economic reforms and international firms’ investments. China reduced its average tariff from over 40% in the early 1990s to 15% when it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, and to about 8% in subsequent years. Economic liberalization and access to world markets spurred domestic Chinese entrepreneurs to set up firms in response to growing opportunities.

Meanwhile, China’s encouragement of foreign direct investment, coupled with its low labor costs and relatively good infrastructure, attracted international companies, helping to turn the country into one of the largest FDI recipients and the “factory of the world.” Foreign companies accounted for one-third to one-half of China’s overall exports for much of the previous three decades.

By enabling low-cost imports to replace more expensive domestic products, globalization had a direct disinflationary impact on advanced economies. It also helped to make domestically produced goods more competitive and weakened workers’ bargaining power.

But, by launching a series of trade wars - and especially by hiking tariffs on imports from China during 2018 and 2019 - US President Donald Trump dealt a body blow to globalization. Trump’s actions have pushed up US prices both directly and indirectly. The direct effect is that US households must now pay substantially more for Chinese-made goods. The indirect consequences include higher prices of US imports from other countries and of other goods and services.

Moreover, US President Joe Biden’s administration, wary of accusations of softness toward China, has so far not rescinded Trump’s tariffs. In fact, deglobalization pressures in the US and elsewhere have increased in the past couple of years amid rising national-security concerns and geopolitical tensions.

Seemingly inspired by these US measures, many other countries have recently introduced import tariffs or other trade barriers, resulting in comparable upward pressure on prices. Plans by the US and several European countries to offer companies incentives to reshore production at home or “friend-shore” their supply chains will likewise lead to higher domestic prices.

Similarly, China has longstanding industrial policies aimed at increasing “self-reliance.” Its recent adoption of a “dual-circulation” strategy to foster growth based on domestic demand and domestic supplies, especially in technology sectors, will have similar effects on the prices.

Although talk of deglobalization is now translating into actual policy, the inflationary consequences will be felt only over time. In 2019, Kristin Forbes, a former member of the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee, asked a key question: If globalization’s disinflationary effects previously made it easier for major central banks to pursue and maintain low inflation, will increasing deglobalization have the opposite effect?

If deglobalization proceeds unchecked, central banks may need to tighten monetary policy more than they otherwise would have. One country’s deglobalization measure may prompt others to follow suit, potentially distorting global production and trade patterns and making every country worse off. The world therefore needs some global rules, most logically via the WTO and the G20, to discipline national policies in these domains.

A collective approach like this would limit the inflationary impact of deglobalization and reduce the need for central banks to step too hard on the brake. That will help to decrease the likelihood of a global recession, or at least make an eventual downturn less severe.

*Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. Tao Wang is Chief China Economist and Head of Asia Economic Research at UBS Investment Bank.*

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# Regulating the Crypto Wild West

A well-functioning financial system is a key component of any successful economy. Without efficient payments and broadly accessible financial services, people cannot engage easily in commerce, save for a rainy day, invest in new innovations and business models, or insure against risk. But precisely because the financial sector is so central, developments within it are highly consequential. If the digital revolution has shown us anything, it is that one seemingly minor innovation can upend or even eliminate entire industries.

The promise of financial technology (fintech) is that it will enable even faster, less costly commerce (including across international borders), improve the allocation of capital toward productive investments, and make financial services even more efficient and accessible, not least to the world’s 1.7 billion unbanked or underbanked people. But technological innovation is not inherently “good” or “bad.” Some changes yield broad benefits for society, but others may benefit the few at the expense of the many, and most will bring a mix of benefits, costs, and complications.

The rapid growth of digital assets is a case in point. Though there are many scams, there are also many opportunities, and the countries that can harness these new technologies effectively may stand to gain a competitive edge. How should governments - and democratic electorates - weigh the risks and rewards? Raghuram G. Rajan, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, recently offered his views on this and related questions for Project Syndicate’s “Finance 3.0” event.

Project Syndicate: Do cryptocurrencies need more regulation than traditional financial instruments?

Raghuram G. Rajan: Well, cryptocurrencies serve many purposes, but let’s focus on just a few. For starters, they are an investment vehicle for a lot of people. Any investment vehicle requires a certain amount of regulation to exclude fly-by-night operators who will take your money and run. This is especially important when you have more than 6,000 different cryptocurrencies, and when you have a lot of people who have issued tokens, cryptocurrencies, versions of the same kind of digital asset, and so forth. Who knows whether they are legitimate or not? Answering that basic question requires a certain amount of regulation, by at least requiring that everyone register to show that they are on the up and up.

A second issue concerns instruments that could pose a risk to the financial system. For example, the issuer of a “stablecoin” basically says, “I’m going to take your money. Whenever you want to redeem your token or your crypto, you will get that money back.” This is the same kind of promise that a bank makes with your deposits. For it to work, you as a depositor need to be fairly confident that the money will be there - or that the bank can access that money if necessary to pay you back - even if everybody else comes for their money, too.

A stablecoin thus has “run risk,” which is one of the reasons why traditional banks are regulated. If everybody thinks everybody else is coming for their money, they will want their money, too. Any institution that says “you’ll get your money back” therefore must be required to show that it can raise enough liquidity to keep that promise.

There are also other “normal banking” reasons for regulating cryptocurrencies and the companies that issue them. Are you becoming a vehicle that people can use to make illegal payments? Are you yourself making payments to entities that might be illegal? Are illegal entities - the mafia, drug dealers - big players in your payment system?

One concern that regulatory authorities should bear in mind is that regulation shouldn’t become a stamp of approval. The message shouldn’t be, “Because we have regulated these things, their value is now certified. Go ahead and invest.” If you are a regulator, I don’t think you want to put that kind of stamp on crypto at this point - not until we better understand the nature of the beast.

PS: What sort of regulation is most appropriate for cryptocurrencies?

RR: At the very least, you should be required to register when you want to issue any token, providing some description of what you’re going to do with the money, where it is going to be lodged, and what access investors will have to that money in the future. That would be a minimal level of regulation.

Beyond that, I think it depends a lot on the quantum that is being issued, as well as on how long investors must keep their money there. Some of this activity falls under the remit of a securities regulator like the Securities and Exchange Commission in the United States, and some of it is liquidity or solvency regulation.

For banking regulators thinking about stablecoins, the main concern is whether the issuer has enough access to liquidity. Moreover, there are regulations governing who is allowed to participate, such as “know-your-customer” norms. Do you know who is using your service, whom they are sending money to, and where it’s going. Regulation is needed to address all of these questions.

PS: Do cryptocurrencies present a challenge that regulators haven’t seen before, or do they represent more of the same?


RR: Regulators have seen many of these issues before, but there are new challenges as well. Can your cryptocurrency be hacked? Are there security procedures to protect not just the asset itself but also the exchanges that use it? Can wallets be raided? What about user data? Who collects that information, and how is it stored? What kind of privacy should crypto users be able to expect? Many of these data and cybersecurity challenges are new. While similar issues obviously show up in different forms within the existing financial system, they become much more acute with digital assets.

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**MANO RIVER UNION**  
**UNION DU FLEUVE MANO**



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
BANK GROUP

Office of the Secretary-General

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**MULTINATIONAL**  
**(Mano River Union - Liberia and Sierra Leone)**

**Project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation in the Mano River Union (BI-BEST) – Technical assistance and capacity development**

Sectors:TRANSITION SUPPORT FACILITY (TSF)

Financing Agreement reference:59001550168

Project ID No:P-Z1-IDO-009

REF. NO:EOI – AfDB/MRU/BI-BEST-0027

DATE OF ISSUE:Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 07, 2022

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Fund to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU), and also serving as implementing agency for the regional component for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programmer Phase 3 and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grants to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a Communication Assistant to promote the visibility of BI-BEST project and provide technical support towards the development and implementation BI-BEST of communication plan.

The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:

- Support the development and implementation of a communication and visibility plan for BI-BEST.
- Develop advocacy materials and builds strategic relationships with major partners and stakeholders to enhance BI-BEST project’s visibility.
- Represent BI-BEST in communication groups as appropriate and provide guidance and advice on various issues relating to communication
- Develop and disseminate communication products through avenues such as the Bank’s web page, and social media channels among others in accordance with the Bank’s Communication guidelines.
- Support development of communication materials for BI-BEST project impact/ results to be shared at regional and national level.
- Researching, preparing fact-checking, editing, and producing professional media and communications materials for various audiences and ensuring their timely dissemination and amplification via AfDB communications channels.
- Assist in drafting and editing articles, press releases, human interest stories and other advocacy materials.
- Contribute to policy, strategy, and reports.
- Oversee internal communications and liaise with the Front Office communication focal person.

**Minimum Education Qualification and Experience**

- Hold a degree at postgraduate level in the field (e.g., communication/journalism, international relations, political science, economics, development, etc.).
- Five (5) years working experience in communication, journalism, writing and editing preferably in the area of communication for development, ideally within recognized international development institutions.
- Ability to deal with sensitive issues in a multi-cultural environment and to build effective working relations with colleagues.
- Understanding of the newsgathering and media storytelling process. Solid knowledge of online marketing tools and best practices.
- Familiarity with Adobe Edit Suite: knowledge of multimedia applications like Final Cut Pro, Canva, Quick or iMovie a distinct advantage.
- Fluency in social media and social media management platforms (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.).
- Experience leading the production of, or overseeing the production of, innovative and contemporary digital storytelling. Submit sample(s) of past communications materials, including articles, press releases, video scripts, social media posts, etc. in application.
- Competent in the use of standard software applications (MS Word, Power Point, Excel), advance Power Point and layout/design skills will be a distinct advantage.
- Demonstrable skills in writing and editing of impact stories, briefs, development project documents, project reporting, website content, promotional content etc.
- An understanding of communications strategy and the role of development institutions in the global aid architecture, knowledge issues within the gender equality and women’s empowerment in cross border trade is an advantage.

**Other Qualities or Requirements**


- Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must;
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge – previous training or teaching experience a plus;
- High Proficiency in the use Microsoft Excel is a must;
- Very good time management skills and ability to multi-task and work under time pressure
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing;
- Fluency in English including demonstrated report writing skills;
- Ability to work in an effectively in a team-oriented environment.
- Demonstrated capacity to rapidly gain familiarity.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s Procurement Policy dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.


Interested candidates may obtain further information at the address below during office hour (09.00 – 17.00 hours).

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022 at 12:00 hrs** and mention “Expression of Interest for: Procurement Specialist Position.

**Mano River Union Secretariat**  
**32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown**  
**Rep. of Sierra Leone**  
**Tel : +232 76-158-355/+232 76-610-618/+232 76-503-112**  
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**Cc : [fnyuma@mru.int](mailto:fnyuma@mru.int)**  
**[fnyuma01@gmail.com](mailto:fnyuma01@gmail.com)**  
**Website : [www.mru.int](http://www.mru.int)**



**MANO RIVER UNION**  
**UNION DU FLEUVE MANO**



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The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:

- Develop the monitoring and evaluation plan with performance tracking indicators.
- Report on the status of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the project, and propose tools, methods or any other improvement in monitoring and evaluation.
- Provide advice on the development of data collection instruments and monitor data quality.
- Propose, in collaboration with the Communications Assistant and other Members of the PIU, methods of communication in terms of achievements (results) and impact of the activities of the project.
- Contribute to the preparation of Annual Work Plans and accompanying Budgets.
- Prepare quarterly reports to feed in the overall project quarterly reports and assist in the synthesis of the overall reports from the PIU.
- Participate in coordination meetings for the project.
- Participate in training programmes organized or arranged by the Bank.
- Develop a sustainability plan for the project and suggest innovations in the monitoring and evaluation of the overall performance of the project.
- Perform any other task that the Project Coordinator will wish to entrust to you.

**Minimum Education Qualification and Experience**

- Hold a postgraduate degree in project monitoring and evaluation, planning or related field, at least three (3) years’ experience in monitoring of projects of similar nature.
- Good knowledge and appreciation of capacity building, women’s economic empowerment, socio-economic development, regional integration and related issues in the MRU and its member states.
- Experience in Programme design, management, and implementation.
- Experience in developing and implementing monitoring and reporting tools.
- Experience in reviewing and writing results-based donor reports.
- Good report writing and analytical skills.
- Familiarity with computerized management information systems and management.
- Experience with the management of international technical cooperation programmes.
- Familiarity with AfDB programmes policies and procedures will be an added advantage.

**Other Qualities or Requirements**

- Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must;
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge – previous training or teaching experience a plus;
- High Proficiency in the use Microsoft Excel is a must;
- Very good time management skills and ability to multi-task and work under time pressure
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing;
- Fluency in English including demonstrated report writing skills;
- Ability to work in an effectively in a team-oriented environment.
- Demonstrated capacity to rapidly gain familiarity.


Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s Procurement Policy dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

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**32 S Spur Loop, Wilberforce, Freetown**  
**Rep. of Sierra Leone**  
**Tel : +232 76-158-355/+232 76-610-618/+232 76-503-112**  
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**MANO RIVER UNION**  
**UNION DU FLEUVE MANO**



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT  
BANK GROUP

Office of the Secretary-General

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)**

**MULTINATIONAL**  
**(Mano River Union - Liberia and Sierra Leone)**

**Project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation in the Mano River Union (BI-BEST) – Technical assistance and capacity development**

Sectors:

TRANSITION SUPPORT FACILITY (TSF)

Financing Agreement reference:

59001550168

Project ID No:

P-Z1-IDO-009

REF. NO:

EOI – AfDB/MRU/BI-BEST-0027

DATE OF ISSUE:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 07, 2022

The Mano River Union Secretariat has received a grant from the African Development Fund to implement the project to Build Inclusive Business Ecosystems for Stabilization and Transformation (BI-BEST) in the Mano River Union (MRU) and also serving as implementing agency for the regional component for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programmer Phase 3 and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grants to payments under the contract for the recruitment of a Procurement Specialist to provide procurement advice and manage procurement activities for both projects.

The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:

- Set up a procurement management system of the projects based on the guideline and procedures for the conduct of procurement under African Development Bank (AfDB) funded projects according to the arrangements in respective agreements, for the procurement of goods, works, non-consulting services and consultancy services.
- Establish a procurement management tracking system for the projects to monitor the implementation of procurement activities in order to provide regular credible updates.
- Ensure the utilization of the AfDB Standard procurement documents, prepare Bidding Documents and Request for Proposals (RfP), Request for Quotations, Letters of Invitations, clarifications/amendments to procurement documentation required for the projects.
- Lead and facilitate various procurement processes including evaluation of bids, preparation of minutes of the Evaluation Committees and negotiation meetings, Evaluation Reports, contract award decisions, etc.
- In consultation with the Project’s beneficiary agencies, prepare and update the Projects Annual Procurement Plans and Budgets in line with AfDB specification and requirements.
- Establish a register of qualified suppliers and consultants and periodically update this register to facilitate advertisements, solicitations and drawing up of shortlists when so required.
- In consultation with the beneficiary institutions, coordinate the preparation of Terms of Reference (ToRs), technical specifications using standard documentation, as recommended in respective agreements.
- Facilitate the procurement processes, including those for International and National Competitive Bidding procedures, ensuring compliance with agreed procurement methods’ threshold, prior review requirements specific to the projects and agreed aggregate threshold amounts for less competitive procurement methods.
- Ensure effective and efficient management of all contracts under the two projects with adequate administrative mechanisms in monitoring the execution of the contracts.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual procurement reports.
- Participates in tender committees’ meetings ensuring that procurement decisions are in line with AfDB requirements and where applicable the relevant national laws. In addition, ensure that relevant criteria and ability to comply with terms and conditions are taken into consideration during tender evaluations.
- Related to the regional component of the MRU/RDTPF Phase 3, liaise with the procurement specialist of the 3 countries executing agencies (Sierra Leone Road Authority for Sierra Leone, Ministry of Public Work (Liberia) and Ministry of Works (Guinea) to ensure that all required procurement is in compliance with the funding agreements.
- Prepare and maintain asset registers for all assets procured under Bank funded projects.
- Establish and maintain a central procurement filing system (both electronically and manually), and ensure all related documents are included in the respective files, to ensure ease of retrieval of information and the ease of following the trail of procurement by independent external auditors or authorized agents.
- Provide training and capacity building needs of procurement staff of beneficiary agencies and other identified stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability of the project outcomes, with a view of strengthening staff capacities and skills, filling skills gap and also support institutional strengthening.
- Carry out any other relevant duties that may from time to time be assigned by the project coordinator.

The Mano River Union Secretariat now invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest in this position and women are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested candidates must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, a cover letter to the Project Coordinator including a list of a least three referees. The minimum education qualification and experience and as follows;

- Minimum Master’s Degree in Procurement or related field experience.
- A minimum of 7 years in public procurement practices and procedures and a of Minimum of 5 years of experience in handling, managing procurement for Donor funded or administered projects.
- Membership in a recognized procurement-related institute such as CIPS or ISM will be an advantage.
- Knowledge of/experience with African Development Bank/other international development organizations’ procurement procedures would be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated computer skills, knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite especially, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

**Other Qualities or Requirements**


- Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must;
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge – previous training or teaching experience a plus;
- High Proficiency in the use Microsoft Excel is a must;
- Very good time management skills and ability to multi-task and work under time pressure
- Demonstrated ability to communicate ideas and analyses clearly and tactfully, both orally and in writing;
- Fluency in English including demonstrated report writing skills;
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The services to be provided under the Assignment include the following:

- Provide technical advice on women’s entrepreneurship development and economic empowerment aspects and support project monitoring and reporting accordingly.
- Assist in monitoring and coordination of various research pieces and assessments to be conducted as part of the BI-BEST project, mainly the Gender responsive, climate friendly and conflict sensitive Value Chain Analysis and the gender audit of the MRU secretariat.
- Organize and carry out technical missions in target border areas and guide other Project Implementation Unit (PIU) members in Freetown and at liaison offices on impactful implementation of activities in favor of women cross border traders, including in synergy with other project funded by the African Development Bank group.
- Liaise and coordinate with women cross border traders, market actors, Grassroots organizations, government, and regional institutions, as well as development partners to facilitate business linkages, networking, trust, resilience and cohesion.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the project coordinator, as part of the implementation of the BI-BEST project or needs for operational and strategic partnerships.

**Minimum Education Qualification and Experience**

- Hold a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Business Management, Finance, Project Management or related field disciplines.
- The candidate should have at least 5 years of proven work experience in project management in international organizations, solid experience in Women’s Economic Empowerment and entrepreneurial development, capacity building and project management and a good knowledge of international procurement procedures.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Experience in donor-funded projects will be an added advantage.
- Computer literate and good command of English and/or French.

**Other Qualities or Requirements**

- Demonstrated ability of high level/strategic report writing is a must;
- Demonstrated ability to transfer skills and knowledge – previous training or teaching experience a plus;
- High Proficiency in the use Microsoft Excel is a must;
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# Français

## Coupure du pont Clay-Ashland : Le maire Richard lance un appel SOS

Le pont reliant Clay - Ashland à d'autres cantons du comté de Montserrado a été coupé, empêchant la circulation des personnes dans la région.

Le mauvais état des routes et l'effondrement du pont aggravent la situation pour les habitants de la localité. Les activités économiques normales ont ralenti et la circulation des personnes vers les cantons voisins de cette partie du comté de Montserrado a été entravée.

Certains habitants ont fondu en larmes tôt le dimanche matin lorsqu'ils ont entendu parler de l'effondrement du seul pont qui reliait Clay - Ashland à Virginia, Arthington et Millsburg. L'incident a été attribué aux fortes averses de ces derniers temps.

Les habitants de Clay-Ashland vivent actuellement dans des difficultés extrêmes, car de nombreuses personnes sont bloquées. La situation pose également un sérieux défi aux habitants de deux autres localité, Arthington et Millsburg.

Le seul itinéraire

alternatif existant pour sortir de Clay-Ashland passe par Molton Corner via un endroit appelé Kubon Shop. En moyenne, il y a 20 minutes de route de Clay-Ashland à Iron Gate, en empruntant la route qui mène au pont qui a été coupé.

Mais l'utilisation d'itinéraires alternatifs prendra maintenant environ quatre fois le temps normal qu'il faut pour accéder au canton de Virginia et à d'autres endroits.

Le pont était en ruine et délabré depuis longtemps. En

2020, le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Travaux publics et de l'entreprise de construction Future Builder, aurait signé un accord pour la construction du pont.

Clay - Ashland est considérée comme l'une des zones isolées de la circonscription électorale n° 17 du comté de Montserrado.

Les écoliers ont du mal à se rendre dans leurs écoles.

Quant aux commerçants, ils

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La ministre Cooper sur la commercialisation des produits agricoles

La ministre de l'Agriculture, Jeanine Milly Cooper, a déclaré que la commercialisation des produits agricoles est indispensable à la transformation du secteur au Libéria.

S'exprimant lors de la retraite des membres du gouvernement dans le comté de Ganta (Gomba City) Nimba, la ministre Cooper a dit que malgré le défi de

l'accès au financement, le ministère de l'Agriculture a étendu la production des cultures et du bétail des petites exploitations à l'échelle commerciale pour stimuler le secteur.

Elle a appelé à l'exportation des cultures de rente en tant que produits de base et souligné la nécessité d'une industrialisation du secteur pour ajouter de la valeur.

Selon elle, la construction actuelle d'une usine de transformation du caoutchouc

dans le comté de Margibi par l'homme d'affaires indien Jeety verra la fabrication de pneus au Libéria dans les prochaines années. Il y a en plus l'usine que construira Firestone au Liberia, qui sera l'une des plus grandes de ce genre en Afrique de l'Ouest.

La ministre Cooper a révélé qu'avec le soutien de la principale société d'importation, les Libériens consommeront fin 2022 des œufs produits dans le pays, et que début août, 27 000 pondeuses seront importées des Pays-Bas.

« Nous avons également mis en place une minoterie au port franc de Monrovia pour fournir des champs de volaille et de bétail aux agriculteurs libériens afin qu'ils puissent ensuite approvisionner le reste du pays en œufs et en poulets ».

La patronne du ministère de l'Agriculture a aussi dit que le Libéria possède désormais la plus grande palmeraie de la sous-région. Il s'agit de Golden Sifca. Elle opère dans le comté de Maryland. On assiste également, selon elle, à une prolifération de production de miel à travers le pays.



## Éditorial

### Que la direction de la LPRC s'explique

La direction de la Liberia Petroleum Refining Company ne dit presque rien sur la disparition présumée de 1,5 million de gallons de produits pétroliers d'une valeur de 6 millions de dollars américains de ses réservoirs de stockage. L'un des principaux importateurs de pétrole dans le pays, Petrol Trade, a récemment sonné l'alarme après avoir observé de manière choquante que son stock qui est à la LPRC a considérablement diminué sans savoir comment cela s'est produit.

La seule explication que la direction de la LPRC a donnée jusque-là est que la société Aminata possède 400 000 gallons de produits pétroliers et la société NEXIUM 300 000 gallons, selon la société Petrol Trade.

Mais comment ont-ils acquis des produits qui ne leur appartiennent pas en premier lieu. La LPRC leur a-t-elle donné ces produits ? Existe-t-il une politique établie à la LPRC qui permet à un importateur de prendre le produit d'un autre importateur sans son consentement et son approbation ?

Nous pensons que si c'était le cas, la direction de Petrol Trade n'aurait pas alarmé le public. En fait, le public a appris l'incident après que Petrol Trade a intenté une action en justice.

Petrol Trade, par l'intermédiaire du cabinet d'avocats Heritage, a récemment écrit à la direction de la LPRC pour lui demander où se trouvent ses 1,5 million de gallons de carburant qui lui avaient été confiés et mis dans ses réservoirs de stockage.

Outre les explications antérieures fournies par la direction de la LPRC, citées par Petrol Trade, le gouvernement du Libéria n'a pas encore donné de clarté ou d'explication sur la situation qui a tendance à éroder la confiance du public et à donner une image très négative du gouvernement et du pays.

La direction de la LPRC a adopté une posture consistant à dire très peu sur une situation qui est une première de son genre dans l'histoire du Libéria.

Y a-t-il des jeux qui se jouent ici ? Les bonnes pratiques commerciales exigent la transparence et la responsabilité, deux valeurs importantes qui sont nécessaires pour rester en affaires.

Mais il semble que l'administration Weah se soucie moins de l'image et de la crédibilité. Tout ce que nous voyons quotidiennement, c'est que le rythme continue, allant de la corruption généralisée à la mauvaise gestion, en passant par les assassinats arbitraires par les forces de sécurité en toute impunité.

Nous appelons la direction de la LPRC de fournir toute la clarté sur les 1,5 million de gallons de pétrole qui sont portés disparus sous sa surveillance afin de racheter son image, en tant qu'entité publique crédible du Libéria. Travailler dans l'ombre pourrait causer des dommages irréparables et négatifs pour ce gouvernement et provoquer un embarras pour le pays dans le futur.



# Français

## Coupure du pont Clay-Ashland

se plaignent également des difficultés auxquelles ils sont confrontés pour transporter leurs marchandises jusqu’au marché. Ils ont indiqué que les prix des produits de base, dont le riz et l’essence, continuent d’augmenter.

Une tasse de riz est maintenant vendue 100 L\$, tandis que le prix d’un gallon d’essence reste énorme.

La plupart des habitants de Clay-Ashland, en particulier les femmes, sont engagés dans des activités agricoles pour subvenir aux besoins de leurs familles.

Ils transportaient leurs produits de Clay-Ashland à Iron Gate et en Virginie pour les vendre.

M. Morris G. Richard,

maire de la ville de Clay-Ashland, s’est dit consterné. Selon lui, le pont s’est effondré dimanche matin en raison d’une forte averse.

M. Richard a révélé avoir organisé un comité qui travaille à la construction d’un pont de planches temporaire pour permettre aux gens de faire leurs affaires et aux enfants d’aller à l’école.

« Mon frère, en 2018, nous avons demandé au gouvernement de nous aider à construire le pont parce qu’il était en mauvais état. En 2020, le gouvernement a accepté et a contacté l’entreprise de construction Future Builder pour construire le pont. Maintenant il s’est effondré », a-t-il expliqué.

## Tension entre le Mali et la Côte d’Ivoire: un règlement à l’amiable est-il encore possible?

Mardi soir, les autorités ivoiriennes se sont enfin exprimées officiellement sur le cas des 49 militaires ivoiriens arrêtés le 10 juillet à leur arrivée à l’aéroport de Bamako, accusés par les autorités maliennes d’être des mercenaires. Abidjan a livré sa version qui correspond à celle des Nations unies, même si une certaine dose de flou demeure.

Abidjan le dit clairement : les 49 hommes sont des militaires de l’armée régulière ivoirienne. Ils sont arrivés au Mali « dans le cadre des

duquel un pays contributeur de troupes peut apporter un soutien complémentaire à un contingent déployé au sein de la Mission.

On notera quand même la déclaration hésitante d’un porte-parole des Nations unies à New York hier qui, s’il n’a pas démenti l’appartenance des 49 soldats ivoiriens à ce dispositif NSE, fréquent dans les opérations de maintien de la paix, n’a pas été en mesure de préciser ni leur rôle exact ni leur lien contractuel avec la société privée SAS, elle-même sous-traitante de la Minusma.

Un très haut responsable des Nations unies, à New York, a



opérations des Éléments nationaux de soutien » en vertu d’une convention signée en juillet 2019, il y a trois ans, entre la Côte d’Ivoire et l’organisation des Nations unies.

Une version qui corrobore celle des Nations unies qui, par la voix de plusieurs responsables différents, avaient déjà précisé que ces 49 hommes ne faisaient pas partie du contingent ivoirien de casques bleus - ils ne sont pas membres de la Minusma - mais qu’ils relevaient bien de ce mécanisme NSE, en vertu

quant à lui affirmé à RFI, sous couvert d’anonymat, que les soldats ivoiriens n’étaient pas NSE. Des déclarations contradictoires et confuses qui, vu le contexte, renforcent le doute. Abidjan demande en tout cas à Bamako de libérer « sans délai » les militaires ivoiriens « injustement arrêtés ».

Une libération à laquelle la Côte d’Ivoire veut encore y croire : au communiqué très musclé de Bamako, Abidjan répond en proposant de « maintenir le climat de paix et de fraternité qui a toujours prévalu » entre les deux pays.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Josep Borrell

## Le moment est venu de devenir sérieux en matière de défense européenne

B RUXELLES - La guerre de la Russie contre l’Ukraine a obligé l’Union européenne à relever des défis stratégiques connus de longue date. Notre tâche la plus immédiate consiste à mettre fin à la dépendance de l’Europe à l’égard des importations énergétiques russes, et ce processus est désormais en cours, avec en particulier un embargo pétrolier progressif qui concernera 90 % des importations russes à la fin de l’année.

Plus largement, l’Europe doit aussi développer une politique de sécurité et de défense efficace, ainsi que les capacités nécessaires pour la mettre en œuvre. Cette ambition n’est pas nouvelle, mais elle bénéficie d’un nouvel élan. La guerre déclenchée par la Russie montre clairement que nous devons franchir une étape vers une plus grande mise en commun des investissements en matière de défense. C’était la principale conclusion de la discussion sur la défense lors du Conseil européen qui s’est tenu cette semaine.

Tous les problèmes politiques diffèrent les uns des autres. Parfois, un défi semble si nouveau et dépourvu de précédent qu’il ne peut être relevé qu’après avoir procédé à l’évaluation du paysage modifié. Parfois, les solutions sont connues mais ce sont les ressources pour les mettre en œuvre qui font défaut. Le débat sur la sécurité et la défense européennes relève d’une troisième catégorie : le diagnostic et les solutions sont clairs, mais c’est la volonté politique qui a fait défaut jusqu’ici.

Nous savons depuis des années - voire des décennies - que les gouvernements européens ne consacrent pas assez d’argent à leur défense, et qu’ils le font de manière trop fragmentée. Il en résulte que nous ne disposons pas des capacités militaires nécessaires pour garantir notre propre sécurité ou pour être un partenaire efficace au sein de l’OTAN. Nous devons dépenser davantage, et nous devons le faire ensemble.

Au fil des années, de nombreux dirigeants politiques, institutions, ministres de la défense, groupes de réflexion et autres acteurs européens ont rendu publics des rapports et des propositions appelant à augmenter et à améliorer nos dépenses de défense. Ces exhortations ont reflété un consensus massif parmi les experts de la question.

En 2004, l’UE a créé l’Agence européenne de défense pour soutenir les États membres dans leurs projets communs de recherche, de développement et d’acquisition d’équipements de défense. Mais, à la suite de la crise financière de 2008, de nombreux pays ont réduit leurs dépenses de défense, diminuant à cette occasion la part de leur budget consacrée aux investissements réalisés de manière collaborative. Et depuis lors, les gouvernements ont trop souvent fait semblant d’accepter des dépenses conjointes tout en continuant en pratique à privilégier les achats nationaux (souvent pour des raisons politiques, comme le soutien aux industries et à l’emploi du pays).

Le résultat a été spectaculaire. Entre 2009 et 2018, les réductions de budget opérées par les États membres se sont traduites par un déficit global de dépenses militaires d’environ 160 milliards d’euros (171 milliards de dollars). Pendant ce temps, beaucoup d’autres pays en ont

profité pour prendre l’avantage sur nous. Au cours des 20 dernières années, les dépenses de défense combinées de l’UE n’ont augmenté que de 20 %, contre 66 % pour les États-Unis, près de 300 % pour la Russie et 600 % pour la Chine. Plus inquiétant encore, l’Europe a atteint un nouveau point bas en 2021 : seuls 8 % des dépenses d’équipements militaires ont été consacrées à des investissements réalisés en commun, bien loin des 35 % que les États membres de l’UE se sont eux-mêmes fixés comme objectif.

Ce manque de collaboration coûte aux pays de l’UE (et donc aux contribuables) des dizaines de milliards d’euros par an, en raison de dépenses redondantes et inefficaces. Mais il n’y a pas de fatalité à ce qu’il en soit ainsi. Il est en notre pouvoir de changer de cap, et nous connaissons le chemin à suivre. Grâce à la Boussole stratégique, adoptée en mars dernier, les institutions européennes et les 27 États membres ont établi une feuille de route. Nous avons mis en place des outils et des cadres - à commencer par la coopération structurée permanente et le Fonds européen de défense - afin d’aider les États membres à mener en commun des activités de recherche et de développement et à investir de manière mieux coordonnée.

Mais d’autres pièces du puzzle doivent encore être mises en place. Nous devons fournir des incitations financières pour favoriser les achats conjoints et nous orienter vers une programmation plus stratégique. Nous devons également renforcer la base industrielle et technologique de l’UE en matière de défense en soutenant la R&D et en exploitant le potentiel des nouvelles technologies de rupture. Comme je l’ai dit aux dirigeants européens cette semaine lorsqu’ils ont approuvé cette approche, la Commission européenne et l’AED peuvent toutes deux contribuer utilement à coordonner cet effort.

En matière de politique européenne, c’est devenu un cliché de dire que nous ne manquons que de la volonté politique d’utiliser les outils dont nous disposons. Mais les clichés se révèlent souvent adaptés. Nous, Européens, nous avons tendance à ne prendre de décisions difficiles que lorsque nous avons essayé tout le reste et que nous sommes confrontés à une crise aiguë.

Ces conditions sont manifestement réunies. La guerre d’agression brutale que mène la Russie contre l’Ukraine a mis en évidence les vulnérabilités de l’Europe, révélé des déficits connus de longue date en matière de capacités ainsi que de nouveaux besoins (comme celui de reconstituer nos stocks épuisés). En outre, cette crise vient s’ajouter à de nombreuses autres menaces, tant dans notre voisinage qu’au-delà. Les intérêts européens sont remis en question dans tous les champs stratégiques, y compris les domaines cybernétique, maritime et spatial.

Nous devons nous doter des moyens de nous protéger dans un monde dangereux. Pour cela, il ne suffit pas seulement d’augmenter nos dépenses de défense, mais il nous faut les améliorer. Pour assurer notre sécurité collective, nous devons investir davantage ensemble.

*Josep Borrell est le haut représentant de l’Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne.*



# LIBERIANS DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

President George Manneh Weah said at the start of the cabinet retreat in Ganta, Nimba County that for the past four years of his administration, the government has been building its image and capacity, and now is the time to deliver to the Liberian people. But reactions to the President's statement is mixed. Some are in support, while others think the administration is underrating the plight of Liberians when barely 16 months to elections, it is coming out with more promises.

The New Dawn in this random interview, asked several residents of Monrovia to evaluate President Weah's statement that government has been building its image and capacity for the past four years, and it's time to deliver just 16 months to elections. Read their comments below.



**Musa Z. Konneh**

"The recent statement from the President in Nimba Country is highly welcoming and in the right direction most especially, where he said for the past four years the government has been building image and capacity is good because when the Unity Party regime left the country after twelve (12) years, they damaged the image of the country in terms of corruption and other things. When the President took over and they decided to damage the image of this government by misinforming the public that sixteen (16) billion dollars got missing and was stolen by the President. So, for the past four (4) years, he fought the international

community and the world at large by building the government's image by demystifying the information that (16) sixteen billion went missing. Government was using public funds to build houses and other things around. So, he was trying to build the image of the government for the international community to have trust in this government. The government is also preparing to deliver to the Liberian people; in terms of infrastructure, they've been delivering by building military hospital; by building the first biggest public hospital in Gbarpolu County; one hundred bedrooms hospital in River Cess County and the two hundred- and fifty-bedroom hospital in Margibi County."

"Actually, I don't understand the President's definition of building image and capacity, because if you're discussing the building of image internationally, Liberia has lost dignity; if you're talking about image domestically, the government has lost serious respect from the Liberian people, taken into consideration the consistent pillaging of state resources by Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, consistent mysterious deaths in the country; the police seem to have become main perpetrator of killings around. Currently, Liberia doesn't have a representative at the United Nations General Assembly, since they recalled Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayan; you can't be building image when you have the Foreign Minister that is stigmatized with bad repetition; that is not building an image. So, President Weah maybe meant to have said that for



**Siaffa Kanneh**

the past years, they have failed the Liberian people; they performed poorly. And delivering can't be in a period of few months to elections. This is fun to the Liberian people. We from the angle of NAREMOL, we will build the consciousness of the Liberian people to widen their scope of thinking. You can't reelect people, who have left their fundamental responsibility in line with the social contract theory; that is, delivering goods and services to the Liberian people, and they take that responsibility to something else by entering into state coffer and building mansions. I think these are some of the capacity President Weah was talking about; the building of lottery at the expense of the Liberian people - all of the Ministers within the period of two years in the Weah-led government, they've built mansions. So, President Weah was talking about building self-capacity. So, there is nothing tangible that Weah can prove."



**Prince Dickson George, Jr.**

"Actually, I will tell you that the government is in error because right now, they are trying to tell us that in the remaining two years, they are trying to build. I see that the President didn't do well with us. The past four (4) years, if you really look at it, they own property;

some people in Clara Town, West Point, New Kru Town - in these places up to now are maltreated. Just imagine; like me just take it for example: This July, the heavy pour of rain in the various swam communities is affecting people, but you take yourself from here and carry taxpayers' money to Nimba County, using it and giving government officials and stakeholders five minutes to justify, which is injustice to us. Actually, the government is not preparing anything to deliver to the Liberian people, but only to use our money to campaign with it and give it to us to go and put them back in power for twelve years so we can suffer again."

"You know to spoil something is easy than to fix something. So, whatever is going on, people putting blame on President Weah but, I Jibrill can't put blame on him, because something that the people used one hundred and sixty or seventy years to build, somebody just come and take two or three years to break it, and to put it back is very difficult. So, I can't put blame on the President. The remaining years if we give President Weah chance, he will do something better than all (previous presidents) because you see, people say he's stealing money and no government that will come and they will not steal money. So, the remaining years we should give hundred percent chance to the government to deliver to the Liberian people. You



**Jibrill CDC Papay**

know, we say President Weah can't give us job but, I want to know; what do we learn before the man should give us job? You can't finish with high school then you come sit down and you say I've learnt, so I want job. You have to learn trade but, majority of the people are not doing it; they are just running around in Monrovia here because it is the capital city then we say we want job."

"The statement that was made by the President in a tone from the prospective that because over a time people say that the CDC party was incompetent, and when the CDC government takes office, the economy will damage and people will suffer in the country but, I believe that his statement was from that prospective that they have been building their image, setting the foundation of governance, infrastructural development like roads, markets, schools, building houses in Bomi County. Mr. Tweah once said that the economy has been taken from mess and the government has increased the budget from 500 million to 800 million. I think the remaining years not much to be done, because fourteen or fifteen more months; so, being it



**Joseph Sherman**

political, the ruling party is going to elections to rebuild their image, because I believe there were some loses over the period of time; you saw factors that interplayed in the 2020 (senatorial) election, where Senator Abraham Darius Dillon won. You saw Lofa County just-ended By-election where CDC supported Cllr. Jallah and he won.



# Vote for me and PYJ

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

True to critics' assessment, President George Weah has ended his cabinet retreat in Ganta, Nimba County, asking Nimbaians to reelect him and his close political ally Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, sanctioned



by the United States for corruption, including votes-buying. President Weah made the call Wednesday, 13 July 13, 2022 in Saclepea and Bahn cities during a roads inspection tour that turned into a political campaign, ahead of the 2023 Elections. He asked the people of Nimba to reject all those who want to be President because

in his words, they are not during anything that will help the citizens. Senator PYJ, currently ending his second 9-year term in the Liberian Senate, is a third-term that could make him become the longest serving senator in recent years. He was constrained to

relinquish his post as Chairperson of the committee on defense, security veteran affairs after the U.S. State department issued an indicting report, linking him to votes-buying and barring him from entering the United States. Prior to Wednesday's call by Mr. Weah, two prominent sons of Nimba, Professor Dr.

Jeremaih Z. Whapoe and Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe had declared intentions to vie for the Presidency in next year's election. Cllr. Gongloe, a vehement critic of the Weah administration is currently touring the United States, rallying Diaspora Liberians to support his bid to become Liberia's next President.

Dr. Whapoe had termed the gathering in Ganta as for merry-making rather than a retreat of the cabinet. Several callers on community radio stations in the county expressed disappointment in the Weah administration, pointing continuous hardship and killings across the country, lately by state security forces. But while on a tour of electoral district#2 in Sanniquellie, Representative Prince O.S. Tokpah of the opposition People's Unification Party (PUP) announced his membership for the ruling CDC and vowed to support and campaign for the re-election of President Weah.

According to the PUP lawmaker, the CDC is the best way to go come 2023. In response President Weah welcomed Representative Tokpah for his decision to crossover to the ruling CDC. Reports from the county say dozens of citizens in the vote-rich county also joined the ruling Coalition. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Protesters demand probe in student's death

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Family members and protesting students of the William V.S. Tubman University in Maryland Count have besieged offices of County Superintendent George Prowd, demanding investigation of the mysterious death of their son and fellow student, Anthony Tiaka. The protesters have given the county authority seven (7) days to provide a pathologist to examine the body of the late Tiaka and establish cause of death, threatening to take unspecified actions, if their demand is not met. Student Tiaka was discovered dead on 3rd July 2022 in his bedroom in Pleebo, Zone#5 community in Maryland with gashes on his body.

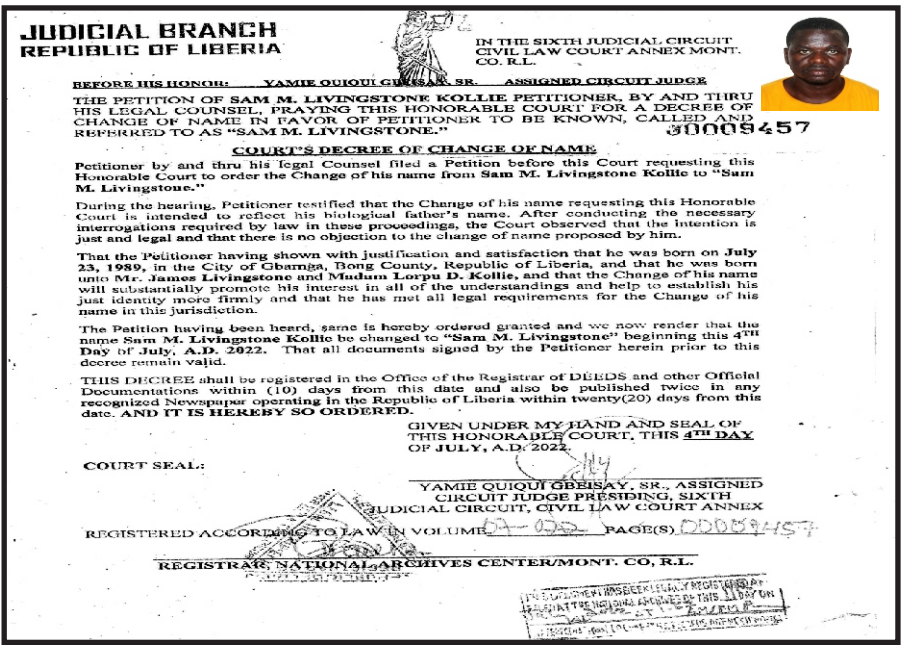
protestors Patrick Nimely, said their gathering was to officially inform Superintendent Prowd about the mysterious death of their son, Anthony Tiaka. Patrick noted that though the family is not happy, but they are willing to work with local authorities to establish the actual cause of death. "So as our people were not happy with the way they saw the body, we can assure them that the government will do everything to satisfy her people", he said. Hundreds of protesters peacefully took the streets

of Harper City, Maryland electoral district#1, calling local authorities and national government's attention to the mysterious death of Student Tiaka of the Tubman University. His lifeless body was discovered in his bedroom on Sunday, 3rd July. Report quotes a 12-member coroner jury in the county that examined the body as detailing that the late Tiaka's eyes had bruises, gashes on his forehead, penis pierced with a sharp instrument, and bled profusely from other parts of his body. "We are seriously not



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Coordination, and the President's 2022 Legislative Agenda. "During the past few days, we have been bold enough, to ask some of the tough questions and accept our challenges and shortcomings in moving our Nation and development agenda



convinced that our friend, who was lastly seen on Thursday, June 30th, 2022 until the discovery of his lifeless body on 3 July 2022 died of a natural cause," the protesters said in a statement released during their street protest on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. Organizers of the protest said their activities include gathering at the Grant Public School just before entering Pleebo City, assembling at various local government offices in the district and subsequent submission of a petition to Superintendent George A. Prowd, calling for a forensic investigation into the suspicious death. Friends of the late Anthony Tiaka, attired in black outfits, chanted battle cry such as "Tiaka Justice, Tiaka Justice, Ayeah Justice", as they paraded through the streets. Speaking at Compound Hill, Student Paul Blayon of the Tubman University said, they have gathered not to vandalize people's properties or to cause confusion, but "to constructively protest through the streets and submit our petition but until justice prevails, we will not rest."

Members of the 'Justice for Anthony Tiaka' group said they strongly believe their colleague was gruesomely murdered in cold blood, noting that he was a promising young man. "We ask the Government of Liberia to carefully handle this case as a matter of urgency, as we unwaveringly pursue justice for an innocent young man who deserved to be alive just as those who murdered him", the petition reads. The protesters continue that they are not satisfied with the authority's response since the incident occurred, noting that by now, they expected preliminary report from the Police or coroner's jury should

## Weah: No room

forward. These deliberations have strengthened our resolve to make Liberia better than where we met it, and will enable us to better focus on the government's priorities for the next 16 months", President Weah added. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

have indicted suspects that should be subject to an investigation by now. "We will stand for justice with our last breath," they vowed. The family spokesperson continued that following their engagement with the local authorities, they were welcomed and assured that the actual cause of death will be established. Mr. Nimely revealed that Superintendent George A. Prowd assured the family that a pathologist will be in the county soon to conduct an autopsy on the body, saying "So we await the government to do everything in their reach to provide the clarity concerning our son's death." Superintendent Prowd has lauded the family for peacefully protesting and assured them that he has informed his boss, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Varney Sirleaf, currently attending a cabinet retreat in Nimba, about the situation. "I have sent a copy of report to the Minister of Internal Affairs, the county caucus and we believe as soon as the government ends its retreat in Ganta, Nimba County, the Minister will be in Monrovia to take charge of the matter", Prowd promised.

The latest street protest in Maryland is one of several citizens' actions in that county. The last major street protest was back in 2021 that turned violent and led to burning down of public properties, including home of Speaker Bhofal Chambers over the killing of a commercial motorcyclist in Pleebo. Protesters also vandalized the Harper Central Prison, which prompted imposition of curfew in both Pleebo and Harper by President George Weah for several days. A suspect was tried, convicted and sentenced for 40 years. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



# Weah: No room for non-performers



Pres. Weah

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has told his cabinet members that there will be no room for non-performers in the dying minutes of his government first term.

Speaking Wednesday July 13, at the close of a three-day cabinet retreat in Gompa City, Nimba County, President Weah said: "... Let me be clear; there will be no room for non-performers and underachievers in this government."

He warned that there

would be no room for non-performers and underachievers in his government, urging cabinet ministers to work hard, coordinate well and communicate to achieve government's strategic priorities.

However, he urged them to gear up for the welfare of Liberians by providing responsive and quality services.

Weah argued that for the CDC-led government to achieve its development objectives and finish its first

term strongly under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), the cabinet should work hard in the next 16 months to put Liberia on a blueprint.

"Let me remind you that our first term is not over yet; we still have 16 months and we must finish strong for the Liberian People. This is a CALL TO ACTION."

Ministers and directors of agencies of the government led by the President, over the weekend gathered in Ganta, Gompa City, to discuss key development issues the government intends to address in the next 16 months, ahead of the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

The Special Cabinet Retreat, fourth of its kind under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah, and first in 2022, was held under the theme: "Pushing Forward for A Better Liberia."

Day-one of the Retreat highlighted implementation statuses of the PAPD, specifically the Economy, Revenue Generation, Aid Management and

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